



# The Island Eagle

The Official Newsletter of the American Citizen Services Unit, U.S. Embassy Nassau

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## AMBASSADOR ROOD HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Ambassador Rood kicked off a series of Town Hall Meetings to be held around the Bahamas in the next six months. The first meeting, held in Nassau January 27, highlighted the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, Avian Flu and rising crime rates. The Ambassador hosted a lively question and answer session. Subsequent

meetings were held in Georgetown, Exuma on February 17, and Harbour Island February 24. Upcoming Town Halls are scheduled for Andros and the Turks and Caicos. Notifications of times and locations will be made via email. The Ambassador will schedule more stops in the near future.



## TOP TEN TRAVEL TIPS FOR STUDENTS

1. Make sure you have a signed, valid passport and visas, if required. Also, before you go, fill in the emergency information page of your passport!
2. Read the Consular Information Sheets (and Travel Warnings, if applicable) for the countries you plan to visit.
3. Leave copies of your itinerary, passport data page and visas with family or friends at home, so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Keep your host program informed of your whereabouts.
4. Have insurance that will cover your emergency medical needs (including medical evacuation) while you are overseas.
5. Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries to which you are traveling. Remember, while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws!
6. Do not leave luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers.
7. While abroad, don't use illicit drugs, drink excessive amounts of alcohol, or associate with people who do.
8. Do not become a target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards.
9. Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money to avoid violating local laws.
10. When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed.

### Spring Break is Here!

**Please share these tips with family members who may visit during this time of year!**

## HEADS UP!

The IRS representative will be at the Embassy March 28-29. If you have tax questions or concerns please email us for an appointment at [ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov) or by calling 322-1181 x 4584.

There will be an upcoming Town Hall in Andros. Details to follow by email.

### NEED TO CONTACT US?

**E-Mail:**  
[ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov)

**On the Web:**  
Embassy: [nassau.usembassy.gov](http://nassau.usembassy.gov)  
Department of State: [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)  
Internal Revenue Service: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Governor Bush and Minister Sears unveil Classroom Connections with a press conference at the Ministry of Education on February 20.

## GOVERNOR BUSH UNVEILS NEW EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN THE BAHAMAS - GLOBALFLORIDA CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Governor Bush arrived in Nassau on February 20 to unveil, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, a new education initiative to connect classrooms in Florida to their counterparts in the Bahamas "to broaden their educational horizons, enhance their reading proficiency and increase their technology skills."

The program will allow Florida classrooms to interact with their sister Bahamian classrooms through the use of interactive technology and book and teacher exchanges. The pilot program will pair Woodcock Primary School with James B. Sanderlin Elementary in Pinellas County, SC McPherson Junior High with Griffin Middle School and C.I. Gibson High with Manatee High School in Manatee County. Eventually, additional schools will be added to encourage more educational and technical exchange of ideas, concepts and social interaction.

### AmCit Q&A

#### Q: How do I register to vote, or apply for an absentee ballot?

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is accepted by all states and territories as an application for registration and for absentee ballot. The FPCA is postage-paid in the U.S. mail, including the Military Postal System, and State Department Pouch mail. An online version of the FPCA is available at the FVAP website, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The online form must be completed, printed, signed, dated and mailed to your Local Election Official. The online form must be mailed in an envelope with proper postage, or using our prepaid return envelope. All States and Territories except American Samoa and Guam accept the OFPCA. You may also send a written request for a ballot to your county, city, town or parish clerk.


#### Q: If I don't maintain a legal residence in the US, what is my legal state of residence to vote in Federal Elections?"

A: You "legal state of residence" for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided immediately prior to your departure from the United States. This right extends to overseas citizens even though they may not have property or other ties in their last state or territory of residence and their intent to return to that State or territory may be uncertain. When completing the FPCA's Voting Residents section, be sure to enter the entire mailing address of your last residence, including street or rural route and number. The address determines your proper district, ward, precinct or parish for voting purposes. Family members of citizens residing overseas, who are US citizens and who have never resided in the US may claim one of their US citizen parent's legal state or territory residents as their own if allowed by the state.

For more information on absentee ballot voting go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)


### JANUARY

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 American Holiday (Embassy Closed)

### FEBRUARY

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

 Bahamian Holiday (Embassy Closed)

Know an American in The Bahamas or Turks and Caicos not getting the newsletter? Tell them to e-mail us at [ACSN@state.gov](mailto:ACSN@state.gov) with their name and address. We also recommend that all Americans overseas register at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) in case of emergency.